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**ABSTRACT**

[1066] Method and apparatus for providing link quality feedback to a transmitter. In one embodiment, a periodic link quality message is transmitted on a gated channel, while continuous differential indicators are transmitted. Between quality messages, the differential indicators track the quality of the link. The periodic quality messages provide synchronization to the transmitter and receiver. A coding is applied to the feedback information identifying the transmitter. In one embodiment, a remote station includes a differential analyzer (212) to determine the change in successive channel quality measurements. In an alternate embodiment, link quality feedback information is gated according to channel condition.

2025-01-20 20:58:40